

of a dozen of the villainous soldiers of the country, who had lately been showing their affection for my countrymen, and by whom I was being strongly urged to pass the night in the little building I have mentioned. Knowing how much easier it is to get into a Spanish prison than to get out of one, I resisted all their entreaties, and gave my reasons for it in very good English, with which they did not appear at all satisfied. Dr. B. however, one of our party, who had seen me in my interesting predicament, sent for the Alcalde of the town, who is a Scotchman by birth, and who soon came to enquire the cause of my rude treatment. An explanation took place, when it seemed that the whole "head and front of my offending" was my having passed over the little wooden bridge before mentioned on horseback, which is "tabooed by the government!" The soldiers had probably received orders to seize every foreigner on any plausible pretext, and thus I was made to suffer for my ignorance of the customs of the country, and of the value which they attached to little wooden bridges. This bridge which was the occasion of my being almost frightened to death, was a little affair of about fifteen feet in length, built for the government by an American, and they are so choice of it, as the only one in the place, that no one is allowed to ride over it, under a penalty of two dollars. It might as well be kept in a glass case. I had received more than two dollars worth of abuse, but was obliged to fork over, which I did, and was liberated, to the apparent chagrin of the amiable guards, who parted from me with regret, as well as from the heavy silver spurs, which I recovered with difficulty, disappointing these worthies of a prize which they thought they had made sure of, and congratulating myself that I had escaped the delights of a night in the calaboose.

The arrival of the A. having afforded the necessary communication, we sailed on the 28th of April for St. Barbara, a port to leeward of Monterey. After a two days passage we anchored in an open roadstead, there being no harbor. St. Barbara is situated at the foot of a range of high hills, and as you approach it from the sea, bears some resemblance in appearance to the town of Lahaina, on the Island of Maui. The Mission of St. B. makes quite an imposing appearance, as it stands on the rising ground in the rear of the town. The landing here, is at times very dangerous and often impossible, from the fury with which the surf breaks upon the shore. We found here an old acquaintance, the Prison Barque, which had touched to receive an addition to her cargo of "Revolutionists." We were very glad, though not a little surprised to find that the inhabitants of St. B. were very friendly towards foreigners, and that they looked upon the imprisonment of so many, with very different feelings from those entertained by the people of Monterey, a general indignation pervading them at the high handed measures of the governor and his adviser Don Jose Castro. We were invited to stop at the house of Mr A. B. Thompson, the principal merchant here, and were here introduced to Don Carlos Carrilla, an old gentleman of some distinction, who holds a commission from the Mexican Government as Governor of California, which Alvarado refuses to acknowledge. He is a fine old gentleman and very friendly disposed towards foreigners, having five daughters married to Americans. His son Pedro, was educated in Boston, and is a fine looking fellow; the beau ideal of a Spanish cavalier. Having rested from our walk, we proceeded according to custom to pay our respects to the Commandant, whom we found a social old gentleman, in costume "a la Anglais," with his spectacles pushed up over his forehead,

and with very little of the appearance of the Spaniard about him. He is also very indignant at the seizure of the foreigners, and told Don Aguera the owner of the barque which contained the prisoners, that he hoped he would fall in with an American man of war, and be hung at the yard-arm for prostituting his vessel for such a nefarious purpose. On our arrival the prisoners were removed from the ship and confined in the Keeps of the Mission on the hill, Jose Castro, who commands the party which guards them having an idea that we were following him for the purpose of effecting a rescue.

On the afternoon of our arrival, we took a walk out to the Mission, which is a noble pile of buildings, and must have cost much labor and money considering the circumstances under which it was built, in a savage and unsettled country, where all the materials were to be brought from old Spain. A fine fountain plays in front of the building, the water which supplies it being brought in aqueducts from the mountains in the rear, and is collected in six large reservoirs of solid Spanish masonry. It is now fast going to ruin, and only enough are kept full to supply the mission and the fountain with water.—The ancient looking building itself, with its domes and turrets, its fountains and gardens, seemed a rough illustration of Irving's description of the ancient Moorish edifices in Granada. We searched in vain for some one who could let us into the interior of the church, and at last catching sight of an old Friar we requested him to allow us to enter; he replied that the sexton had the key, and that the sexton was gone away, so that we were disappointed. Returning to the town we met a party of soldiers, escorting a reinforcement of prisoners, who had been brought from San Pedro, a seaport to leeward. These were to join the ship, which sailed a few days after for San Blas with her cargo of human beings.

We had numerous and unequivocal tokens that our unexpected appearance on this coast was any thing but welcome to the "powers that be." Going direct to the capital of Mexico, where Don Jose Castro is bound, to represent the dreadful revolution which he has aided to suppress, and for which he expects to be rewarded, it was evident to him that any falsehood which he had prepared would be detected, and he was well aware that the simple truth will not be sufficient to justify the brutality with which their prisoners have been treated. Castro openly threatened that if his party fell in with us on the way, we should never reach Mexico; but this of course we knew to be mere braggardism, but it sufficiently shewed us the nature of their feeling towards us to put us on our guard.

Sunday is here as in all Spanish countries, the great holiday, when the whole population turn out in their best, to amuse and exhibit themselves. Bull baiting, horse racing and cock fighting, is the order of the day, and the scene in St. Barbara is a gay one. The Californians may almost be termed a nation of horsemen, and the dexterity displayed by them in all equestrian exercises is astonishing. The first thing learned by the children is to throw the lasso; they learn to ride, almost before they can walk, and the height of their ambition is to be able to lasso a bullock. As I sat on the piazza, I was amused at the scene presented by those who were amusing themselves in the square in front of the house. Here was a group assembled round a cockfight. Farther on a party of boys on horseback were amusing themselves by throwing the lasso at a calf, which had been given them to practise upon, and upon whom they showed their expertness, now noosing him by the hind leg, and now by the neck, as he ran hither and thither in vain attempts to escape from his merciless tor-

menters. Farther on is a party at full speed after a horse that has broken loose, and who is at last lassoed by the hind leg, by one of the horsemen, with a skill that is surprising. I have seen them when running at full speed after a bullock, stoop and pick up the end of a lasso from the ground without slackening their pace.

While in Monterey we heard a report that a tribe of Indians, supposed to be the remnant of the fierce Delawares, whose name alone is a terror to these people, were seen in the neighborhood; the Governor was much alarmed, especially as he could no longer rely upon the foreigners for assistance, and purchased all the spare arms and ammunition of our vessel, for the expected attack, the tribe being powerful enough to prove a very dangerous foe. At St. B. we found the rumor confirmed. They had attacked the Mission of St. Louis, about half way between Monterey and St. B. and driven off over one thousand head of cattle, leaving the Major Domo tied to a tree. It was thought by no means improbable that they would attack and attempt to plunder the town of Monterey.

## THE POLYNESIAN.

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Every one here speculates more or less upon the future condition of this archipelago. Some indulge in visions of greatness and prosperity, based upon the increasing civilization of the present inhabitants, and look forward to the time when this shall be a kingdom known and respected among kindred nations. In the progress of the people in refinement and knowledge, they see strong hopes for the future.

Others not only desire, but stand ready to aid in any change which shall cause the power to pass from the present chiefs, and place some civilized government in their stead. They are comparatively few in number and divided by a want of common interests among themselves. Like most revolutionists they desire a change, and yet would be puzzled to define their wishes. The present government in their eyes is barbarous and impotent; their pecuniary prosperity trammelled by their edicts, and they look forward as did the Israelites in the days of Samuel to a new king, who shall be a ruler after their own hearts. The majority of residents we believe to be sincere friends of the nation, and would aid them in an emergency, and stand between them and oppression. Many are honestly sincere in the belief of their inability to hold together much longer, while at the same time no act of theirs will hasten their ruin.

Were a foreign power to seize upon these islands, invite emigration, foster commerce and agriculture, it cannot be doubted that their mercantile resources would be rapidly developed, and wealth and industry ensue. But this could only result from an act of injustice towards the owners of the soil, such as any modern government would hesitate to execute. Statesmen of this day are slow to brave the moral sense of a people. In a case like this, the successful despoiler must not only face the indignation of those among his own nation whose sense of right is not lost in the pride of national aggrandizement, but also the aroused jealousies of disappointed rivals for the same prize. The neutralizing effects of the ambition of the great powers that now wield the destinies of the world, is equally as strong a guarantee of the independence of these islands, as the want of a pretext to destroy their liberties. As population increases on the shores of the North Pacific, they will bear the same relative importance to the neighboring countries that the West Indies do, in the Atlantic.—Both as a naval and commercial station their value will be great, and there will not be wanting those who will seek an occasion to

make them their own. But the day of such a revolution is we believe still far distant; nothing but a violent overturning among the nations of the earth, the obliteration of old landmarks, and the formation of new, the march of war and conquest; the ascendancy of the law of might, will bring this to pass in our generation. Their isolated position is a great safe-guard. Were they on the borders of a powerful nation, exposed directly to the rapacity and designs of interested states or individuals, their laws and customs clashing with an all-dominant public opinion, we should fear that the fate of the Indian tribes of North America would be theirs—they must either recede or yield. Five thousand miles of ocean protect them on all sides, and their salubrious climate, and diversified soil yield most of the necessities of life. In their intercourse with foreign powers, their policy is yearly becoming more safe, and past lessons have taught them the necessity of caution. That they will overstep the bounds of prudence, or irritate a greater than themselves is not to be expected, and we find of late that while their government has been gaining in strength at home, it has also shown increased wisdom in all its foreign diplomatic intercourse. The expressed opinions of American, English and French naval commanders who have visited here of late, fully confirms this assertion.

We have now to look to their internal resources and prospects. Should the number and wealth of the foreign population increase in an excessive ratio compared with that of the native, the result would be nearly the same as if another government held the reins of state. Power is closely allied with wealth and knowledge, and it would be but a short time before foreigners would secure a voice in the government. It could not be expected that the laws which would answer for a semi-barbarous race, would meet the exigencies of a civilized. In justice to themselves, and to preserve the country from anarchy, they would be obliged to exercise an influence in legislation. That influence once secured, it would not be difficult to foresee that whatever nominal form the government might assume, the real power would be united with the superior talents and monied estates of the whites. That this is a danger which His Majesty's Council is fully alive to, the late enactments show. Their policy is to retain the undivided right to every inch of their soil, with a claim upon all the improvements. Leases of lands are difficult to obtain, and only upon such terms as will effectually prevent any emigration, while every encouragement is given to their own subjects to interest themselves in agriculture. We believe it to be the desire of this government to admit only sufficient capital into their country to be invested in permanent improvements, as will when judiciously scattered through the group, serve to stimulate and enlighten their people, and enable them to compete with the whites. While they remain united on this point, they will be able to effect this. As far as their own interests are concerned, their policy is a wise one, and if one may judge from its effects, admirably adapted to answer its ends. The islands have during the last few years greatly increased in wealth, yet we believe that upon a careful examination it will be found that the natives in proportion to their means, have prospered the most—that the aggregate increase of property and resources has been greater among them, than with foreigners. The floating class of foreigners, consisting of families, men of business, whose pursuits draw them temporarily to this country, have in number for the last five years not more than held their own. In fact during that time that population has almost entirely changed, and there are few now who may be accounted as permanent residents, while that class who intermarry in the nation, and exercise an important and direct bearing upon its wealth and civilization, and whose interests